

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County

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### **Mitzelfelt Dedicates Veterans Memorial Park in Wrightwood**

WRIGHTWOOD— On the occasion of our nation's 141<sup>st</sup> celebration of Memorial Day weekend, San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt today joined with military veterans and state and federal leaders to dedicate the new Wrightwood Veterans Memorial Park and Memorial.

"It is an honor to dedicate this park in honor of those servicemen and women who paid the highest price for the freedoms we enjoy," said Supervisor Mitzelfelt.

For years, a group of veterans would meet for Saturday breakfasts in the Wrightwood village. The discussion would often turn to the possibility of Wrightwood having its own tribute to American veterans. Discussions became more serious, and eventually a dozen of the veterans formed the Wrightwood Veterans Memorial Committee.

On December 1, 2007, the organization met for its first official meeting to determine the feasibility of a monument. The first two challenges were to determine how they would raise the money for a monument, and to determine where it could be placed. The committee put together an aggressive fundraising plan to raise the \$14,000 needed for the purchase of a monument, but still did not have a location.

The Committee then turned to San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, a Marine Corps veteran. He decided to have the County purchase two vacant parcels in the Wrightwood village that would expand Wrightwood's park space and also provide the veterans with a location to display the monument. In June 2008 the purchase was completed at a cost of \$160,000.

The Committee then launched its fundraising efforts and were immediately overwhelmed by the support of local merchants as well as the community as a whole. Donations for the monument flooded in, with many local contractors and builders offering to donate their services.

The group quickly raised the \$14,000 needed, and in the Fall of 2008 ordered the monument, which would take nine months to cut and design. The monument, which stands six feet tall, three feet wide, and eight inches thick, is made of a solid granite slab and is designed to be dedicated to all past, present and future servicemen and women of all branches of the military.

In February 2009, the memorial monument was delivered, and in April work on setting the monument began. The concrete for the base of the monument was donated by Hi-Grade Materials. Kevin Hetzel donated the truck that brought the concrete. Construction of the monument was donated by Anderson

Construction, and the cranes to set the monument were donated by McDaniel Crane and Aerial Crane. Additionally, the Timberline Lions Club provided a flagpole, which now stands next to the monument.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Works designed and constructed the parking lot and the San Bernardino County Special Districts Department landscaped the park, in addition to providing picnic tables and a walkway that connects to Vivian Null Park.

Today's dedication ceremony included music by the Navy Southwest Ceremonial Band, remarks by Colonel Wes Weston of the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, and a fly-over by a P-51 Mustang and a P-40 Warhawk.

Wrightwood Veterans Memorial Committee leaders Carl Smith and Tom Pinard officiated the ceremony.